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UNCLAS MAPUTO 000267

SIPDIS

STATE FOR AF/S

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [MZ](#) [ESF](#)

SUBJECT: Mozambique: Request for FY 2004 ESF funding

REF: STATE 33230

1. Summary: Post requests USD 700,000 for support for transparency of the 2004 National Elections. This election support will build on successful observation and parallel vote tabulation coordinated by Carter Center in The November 2003 municipal elections. End Summary.

2. Mozambique's third Presidential and legislative elections must be held by December 2004. The December 1999 elections were marred by lack of transparency in the official tabulation process. As a result, opposition parties did not accept the election results, leading to political tensions and violence, and ultimately to the death of more than hundred people in November 2000. Ensuring the fairness and transparency of the 2004 elections is of vital concern for political stability and development of democracy in Mozambique, a central MPP goal.

3. ESF funding used in the 2003 local elections, through support to Carter Center and a consortium of local civil society organizations, yielded positive results. The presence of US-funded civil society election observers helped prevent electoral officials from carrying out documented electoral fraud in the second largest city, which was won by the main opposition party. The USG-funded parallel vote tabulation (PVT) exercise also helped right a mis-tabulated result in another municipality, giving the opposition a fifth mayoral position. Post believes that assisting Mozambican civil society to setup and run an effective election observation and PVT exercise will be a crucial contribution to the transparency of the process.

4. Costs associated with technical assistance to set up the observation and PVT methodology, database, and analysis for the 2004 national elections are already covered by a grant to the Carter Center with FY 2003 ESF funding. Post requests USD 700,000 for the field implementation of the observation and PVT exercise by local organizations, to be obligated and managed by USAID and implemented by Mozambican partners.

5. This funding would finance the recruitment, training, and deployment of a total of 930 observers who will monitor the electoral process and conduct a PVT. Besides the manpower, PVT costs include communication costs to transmit by telephone or fax collected election results from selected polling stations to an operations center in Maputo. Specifically, 500 short-term domestic observers will be recruited and trained throughout the country to observe the electoral campaign period and the voting; 30 medium-term domestic observers will be deployed in political hotspots throughout the country to monitor election-related disputes and conflicts four months before the election date; and an additional 400 observers will join the short-term observers on voting day to help cover 900 sampled polling stations (10 percent of the total) around the country to collect the results from the tally sheets posted outside the polling stations to conduct the PVT.

LA LIME